

ALICE SPRINGS PEACE GROUP

P.O. Box 1763
Alice Springs
NT 0871

MEDIA RELEASE

21st June 1991 For immediate release

Over 100 Alice Springs residents attended the screening last night of a new film exposing the continuing repression of East Timor by the Indonesian military regime, with the connivance and tacit support of the Australian government.

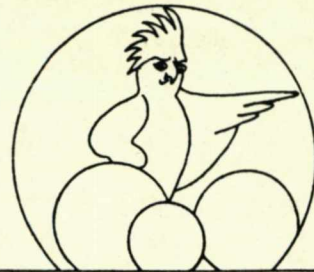
The evening, which was organised by the Regional Links Committee of the Alice Springs Peace Group, also featured Alfredo Ferreira, representing the East Timorese liberation movement Fretilin. Mr Ferreira described the appalling events in his homeland, just a few hundred kilometres off the Northern Territory coast. Since 1975, when the Indonesian army's invasion cut short East Timor's brief experience as a newly decolonised nation, an estimated 200,000 Timorese, one third of the population, have lost their lives in the continuing struggle to reassert their independence.

The film, "The Shadow over East Timor", showed Australian government policy has been to consistently appease Indonesia and turn a deaf ear to the plight of the Timorese. The recent celebratory signing by Foreign Ministers Gareth Evans and Ali Alitas of the Timor Gap Treaty is now being challenged by Portugal (the former administering colonial government in East Timor) in the International Court of Justice, and Mr Ferreira told the gathering that should this challenge succeed, as appears likely, Australia will be forced to abandon the Treaty, and its claim to the lucrative Timor Sea oil reserves.

"Mr Hawke sent warships to the Gulf in support of the United Nations' role in protecting small nations from large aggressive nations. It is impossible for Australia to maintain credibility unless it respects the same principles of international law when applied to the situation of a country right on its own doorstep", Mr Ferreira said.

Mr Ferreira strongly urged Australians to write to the Australian government in protest at its East Timor policy. Over \$1,000 was raised at the meeting, and proceeds will be contributed to humanitarian relief in East Timor, where Indonesia continues to use forced starvation as a key weapon of repression. In addition, a letter of support was signed and sent by those present to Fretilin itself, so that those continuing to struggle inside East Timor will know that within Australia many people reject the Australian government's policy.

Contact: Russell Goldflam 52 2688 (b/h)



CLOSE PINE GAP

Alice Springs Peace Group
PO Box 1673 Alice Springs
N.T. Australia. PH. 089-52-8804

To: -Comissao Directiva da FRETILIN
-Cdt Xanana Gusmao, Comandante
Chefe da FALINTIL

Members and friends of the Alice Springs Peace Group in Central Australia send to you our warmest greetings and our strong support for your just struggle for independence and self determination for the East Timorese people.

This evening we have seen the film, Shadow East Timor and we have heard a talk by Alfredo Ferreira.

It is hard to convey in words our feelings of outrage at the way your people have suffered at the hands of the Indonesian occupiers. We also feel great shame that the Australian government has collaborated with the Indonesians. Please be assured that many people in Australia agree with us in condemning our government's lack of action to support you, and its recent agreement with Indonesia to jointly exploit the oil resources that rightfully belong to the East Timorese.

We wish you success in your struggle. Independence for East Timor.

Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
June 20th, 1991

Deborah Duman
Made Fletcher
Jesse Simpson
M. Collins
Edward Kelly
Lisa Robinson
Kat Gistal
Craig Jones
Christa Voss
R. Burnett
M. Mum
Shil

L. Hunt

Patricia D'Arango

J. Goffe

Ben Bartlett

Alfola

Bleches

R. H. Shelt

J. Langman

Warren J. Selva

Jessie Simpson

Denise Williams-Kennedy

Peter Ytter

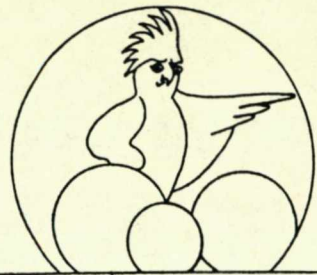
Sahun Dash

Margaret Carty

Ames

DePoli

G. A.



CLOSE PINE GAP

Alice Springs Peace Group ~~Peace Campaign~~
PO Box 1673 Alice Springs
N.T. Australia. PH. 089-52

J. Riddell
J. B. S.

W. A. Chee
J. B. S.

S. Mates	C. Edwards
Anne Larks	Punch Diller
G. Kennedy	Jim O'Sullivan
Joe O'Connell	Wash
Chapman	Joe Smith
Barry	Bobbie O'Brien
Tess Kelly	Geoffrey
Helen	Jim
Mary-Jane	Ann Lavan
L. Jones	Heather Leatham
Anne Barrett	Libby Hartman
Li	Paul Rivalland
John	Lyndene
Anne Craven	M.C. Turner
Bob	D. Pearce
Ann	J. McCarthy
Roger Elliot Bennett	Ann
Harold	Dawn Pearce
James	Myra Hayes
	Maybelle Gieger
	Kathy Campbell
	Kenny Hayes
	Ann Masters
	Kym Stammers
	Clara Mahr
	Ann
	W. Rogemüller
	Cecelia Schaber



respond well to criticism. Setting a good example for these youngsters will do more good than all the lectures and scoldings in the world. They are happiest when solving a problem or uncovering a mystery. Science will probably be their favorite subject. They will enjoy going on field trips and should visit museums as often as possible. Their intellects are often as good as those of older children. That makes them seem older.



CENTRIAN ADVOCATE 25-6-91

Centralians support East Timor fight

More than 100 Alice Springs residents have signed a letter of support for the leader of a guerilla group fighting Indonesian forces in East Timor.

The petition was organised by the Alice Springs Peace Group.

It will be smuggled through enemy territory to the Commander In Chief of the guerillas, Xanana Gusmao, at his secret mountain headquarters on the island.

The signatures were gathered during a visit by a Australian spokesman for Fretilin (Front for an Independent East Timor), Alfredo Ferreira, last week.

Fretilin reports the Indonesians

Peace group petition gets 100 signatures

had launched a large offensive in the south west, Same Ainaro area, of East Timor as recently as June 6.

About 2000-3000 troops and Timorese conscripts were involved in the operation using helicopter gunships with the objective to wipe out the Fretilin command.

Mr Ferreira said the Australian Government had become "more and more" supportive of the Indonesian actions in East Timor since the signing of the Timor Gap oil share agreement.

"The Australian Government have more advantage to work with

the Indonesians at the moment," he said. "It wants to take the spoils from the Timor Gap so it doesn't want to upset relations."

Mr Ferreira said the Australian military had helped train Indonesian troops and supplied weapons now being used against the Fretilin freedom fighters.

Fretilin also claims Australia has been bugging Fretilin radio communications from Darwin and passing on the information to Indonesia.

Mr Ferreira also claimed Indonesian agents were operating in Darwin and had been spying on the local

East Timorese population — many who are members of Fretilin.

He claimed an Indonesian security guard working at the Indonesian Timor Gap Oil project in Darwin was a government agent.

The United Nations has deemed the Indonesian occupation of East Timor illegal, but calls for their withdrawal have been ignored.

Mr Ferreira said the Indonesians were practising a policy of genocide in East Timor.

Some estimates put the number of dead around 200 000 since Indonesia annexed the former Portuguese col-

ony in 1975. Mr Ferreira conceded the number of schools, literacy rates and the average wage in East Timor had all increased 10 fold since the takeover.

But he said the Indonesians had embarked on a resettlement process — populating the island with people brought from other parts of the archipelago.

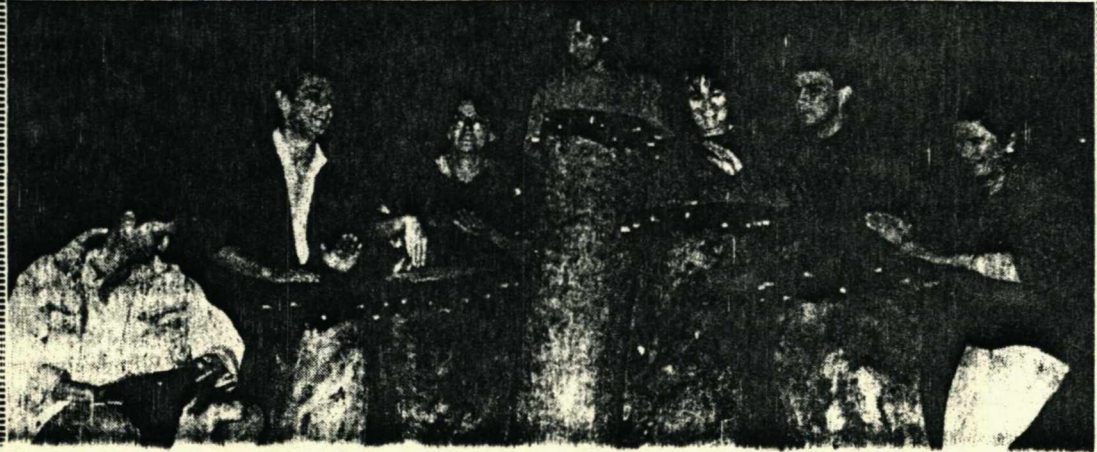
Mr Ferreira said Fretilin guerillas targeted crack Indonesian troops with hit and run tactics.

He said morale was low among the Indonesian troops.

He claimed there was daily interrogation and torture of Fretilin supporters in East Timor.

— PETER TIFFEN

TAFE students beat their creations



FIREWORKS FOR SALE

Saturday 29th June 9.00-5.30
 Sunday 30th June 10.00-4.00
 Monday 1 July 9.00-5.30